

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAN SA 01163 221808Z

73

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 DRC-01 /096 W

----- 057789

R 221711Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5052

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 1163

E.O. 11652 - GDS

TAGS: PINT, ES

SUBJ: FINAL ELECTION RESULTS STILL NOT IN; CCE REELECTION

A SLAP AT UNO

1. THE CENTRAL ELECTORAL COUNCIL (CCE) HAS ISSUED NO ADDITIONAL DEFINITIVE ELECTION RESULTS IN THE PAST WEEK. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, ONLY IN LA LIBERTAD HAS THE DEPARTMENTAL ELECTORAL COUNCIL ISSUED CREDENTIALS TO THE WINNERS OF MUNICIPAL RACES (20 FOR PCN, 2 FOR NO). HOWEVER, SOME OF THE RECOUNTS BEING CONDUCTED BY THE DEPARTMENTAL COUNCILS APPEAR ONLY TO HAVE BEGUN. IN SAN SALVADOR, FOR EXAMPLE, THE DEPARTMENTAL COUNCIL REPORTEDLY IS READY TO BEGIN A BALLOT-BY-BALLOT RECOUNT OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY VOTE. THIS MAY RESULT IN A REVISQON OF THE DISTRIBUTION OF ASSEMBLY SEATS BY PARTY WHICH, BASED ON PRELIMINARY BUT WIDELY-ACCEPTED RETURNS, CURRENTLY GIVES SIX SEATS TO UNO AND THREE TO THE PCN. UNDER EL SALVADOR'S PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION SYSTEM, A SHIFT OF ONLY A FEW THOUSAND VOTES WOULD SWING ONE ADDITIONAL SEAT TO THE PCN. ALL RECOUNTS FOR SAN SALVADOR WERE TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED, HOWEVER, WHEN THE DEPARTMENTAL COUNCIL DECIDED ON MARCH 20 TO INVESTIGATE CHARGES THAT THE BALLOT BOXES FROM THE SUBURBAN TOWN OF ILOPANGO (WHERE UNO CLAIMS TO HAVE WON EASILY) HAD BEEN TAMPERED WITH.

2. PRESUMED MAYOR-ELECT OF SAN SALVADOR JOSE ANTONIO MORALES EHRlich AND MNR SECRETARY GENERAL GUILLERMO MANUEL UNGO APPEARED
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAN SA 01163 221808Z

ON TELEVISION ON MARCH 20 TO AIR UNO'S CHARGES OF FRAUD. IN A

RELATIVELY RESTRAINED PRESENTATION, THEY CLAIMED THAT UNO HAD ACTUALLY WON THE ELECTIONS WITH A NATIONWIDE PLURALITY OF 50,000 VOTES BY VIRTUE OF ITS LANDSLIDE VICTORY IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SAN SALVADOR, SOLID VICTORIES IN SANTA ANA, LA LIBERTAD AND AHUACHAPAN, AND ONLY NARROW LOSSES IN THE OTHER TEN DEPARTMENTS. WITH MORE APPARENT SORROW THAN ANGER, THE CHARGED THAT THE GOES HAD IGNORED THE VERDICT OF THE PEOPLE. WHILE REITERATING THEIR DEVOTION TO DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES AND PEACEFUL MEANS OF CHANGE, THEY WARNED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS PLAYING WITH FIRE BY DEPRIVING THE PEOPLE OF THEIR RIGHT OF CHOICE AND QUESTIONED AGAIN WHETHER FUTURE ELECTORAL PARTICIPATION WOULD BE WORTHWHILE UNDER PRESENT CONDITIONS. THEY ALSO QUESTIONED PRESIDENT MOLINA'S COMMITMENT TO SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHANGE, CITING THE LONG-STALLED AGRARIAN REFORM PROGRAM AS AN EXAMPLE. UNGO ACCUSED THE GOVERNMENT OF "ENTREGUISMO" TO FOREIGNERS OF DUBIOUS REPUTATION, POINTING OUT AS AN ILLUSTRATION THE PATTERSON'S CORPORATION'S PROPOSED HELICOPTER ASSEMBLY PLANT AND THE DISPUTE SURROUNDING IT (SAN SALVADOR 1127).

3. DESPITE THEIR PROTESTATIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT'S CONDUCT OF THE ELECTIONS, THE UNO SPOKESMEN APPEARED RESIGNED TO THEIR FATE. WHILE THEY RAISED THE ISSUE OF OPPOSITION PARTICIPATION IN FUTURE ELECTIONS, THEY SIMPLY STATED THAT THEY WOULD HAVE TO STUDY THE MATTER. THE TELEVISION PROGRAM WAS PROBABLY UNO'S SWAN SONG TO THE 1974 ELECTIONS EXCEPT FOR A STREET RALLY SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 22, WHICH IS NOT EXPECTED TO ATTRACT MUCH INTEREST.

4. UNFO ALSO APPEARED ON THE TELEVISION SHOW FOR THE GOES TO REPLACE THE INCUMBENT MEMBERS OF THE CCE (WHOSE TERMS EXPIRE NEXT MONTH) AS A SIGN OF ITS DEDICATION TO DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES. IN OBVIOUS CONTEMPT FOR THE OPPOSITION AND CONTINUING THE STRATEGY OF "NEVER GIVE A SUCKER AN EVEN BREAK", THE PCN-DOMINATED LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DURING A STORMY SESSION ON MARCH 20 RELECTED ALL THRAE CCE MEMBERS TO ANOTHER THREE-YEAR TERM.
MOSKOWITZ

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTION RESULTS, PRESS COMMENTS, HUMAN RIGHTS, ELECTION FRAUD, TELEVISION BROADCASTING, OPPOSITION PARTIES, LAND REFORMS, SOCIAL CHANGE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SANSAA01163
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740062-0417
From: SAN SALVADOR
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740322/aaaaaumw.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 SEP 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <08 JAN 2003 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FINAL ELECTION RESULTS STILL NOT IN; CCE REELECTION A SLAP AT UNO
TAGS: PINT, ES, UNO, CENTRAL ELECTORAL COUNCIL, PCN, (ANTONIO MORALES EHRlich, JOSE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005